

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00386 141138Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02 L-03

/023 W

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R 141013Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2831

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

CSAF/XOXXI

2 ADGP LANGLEY

DET 6 2ADGP RHEIN MAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0386

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, OCLR, XA

SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) 75 LUSAKA 2446 (DTG 151123Z DEC 75) (B) 75 LUSAKA
2535 (DTG 300645Z DEC 75) (C) STATE 035804 (DTG 130310Z FEB 76)
(NOTAL)

1. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND AND SYMPATHIZE WITH PROBLEM OF FINDING
VIALE ROUTE TO FERRY NEW ATTACHE AIRCRAFT TO PRETORIA AND WOULD
LIKE TO HELP IN OBTAINING ZAMBIAN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE
BUT THIS IS NOT OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR DOING SO FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. LANGUAGE OF FORMAL GRZ REPLY LAST DECEMBER TO OUR REQUEST
FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR MAC MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA AND
TRANSMITTED IN REFS (A) AND (B) WAS CATEGORIC IN REFUSING CLEARANCE.

(B) WHEN WE RAISED QUESTION OF OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE WITH
FONMIN BANDA AGAIN FEB 10 HE SAID FLATLY HE THOUGHT THERE WAS
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 00386 141138Z

LITTLE HOPE ON MAC C-141 FLIGHTS BETWEEN KINSHASA AND

JOHANNESBURG BECAUSE OF THEIR MILITARY CHARACTER AND ZAMBIA'S DESIRE TO BE "NEUTRAL", AS HE SAID. HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT MAIN OBJECTION SEEMS TO ARISE FROM GREAT SENSITIVITY ON PART OF ZAMBIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES NOT ONLY IN RELATION TO ANGOLAN WAR SITUATION, BUT TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT ZAMBIA HAS "MILITARY LINKS" OF ANY KIND WITH SOUTH AFRICA, EVEN SEEMINGLY INNOCUOUS ONES THROUGH THIRD COUNTRIES. BANDA SHOWED IT WAS PERSONALLY PAINFUL FOR HIM TO HAVE TO SAY NO BUT HE GAVE AMBASSADOR TO UNDERSTAND THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO HOPE WHATSOEVER AND EMBASSY WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOT TO MAKE FORMAL APPROACH ON MATTER.

C. IF WE WERE TO PRESS GRZ NOW ON ANOTHER MILITARY OVERFLIGHT, WE RUN RISK OF JEOPARDIZING CLEARANCE FOR LONG-PENDING PAN AM REQUEST FOR O/L CLEARANCE WHICH APPEARS BE OF MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY IN CONTEXT OUR OVERALL INTERESTS IN ZAMBIA.

D. IN VIEW GRZ'S GROWING FRUSTRATION OVER APPARENT FAILURE OF ITS POLICY IN ANGOLA (WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN STRONG HINTS RELATES TO FAILURE OF USG TO DO ITS PART) AND COMPLICATIONS THIS POSES FOR ZAMBIA IN ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFRICAN STATES, GRZ IS LIKELY BE IN NO MOOD TO ASSIST US IN SENDING MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO SOUTH AFRICA (EVEN THOUGH FOR EMBASSY PRETORIA).

2. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AGAINST RAISING OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR ATTACHE AIRCRAFT NOW AND ADVISES SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE ROUTE. WE WOULD BE WILLING TAKE NEW LOOK AT SITUATION ONCE QUESTION OF PAN AM COMMERCIAL O/L CLEARANCE RESOLVED.
WILKOWSKI

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